



**NWS**  
**Flagstaff**

# 2021 Fire Season Outlook

**Issued May 6, 2021**

# Key Points



***Current drought status:*** Near to below average precipitation in April has allowed severe to exceptional drought conditions to continue across northern Arizona.

***Fuel Conditions: Energy Release Component (ERC):*** ERCs are generally near to slightly above average for this time of year.

## ***Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks:***

**May** – Odds favor drier than average conditions across eastern Arizona and near the Arizona/Utah border. Otherwise, equal chances exist for above, near, or below normal precipitation across the rest of the state. Odds favor warmer than average conditions across Arizona.

**May through July** – Equal chances exist for above, near, or below normal precipitation across Arizona. Odds favor warmer than average conditions across Arizona.

**July through September** – The extended outlook favors above normal temperatures, with odds tilted in favor of a wetter than average monsoon season across Arizona.

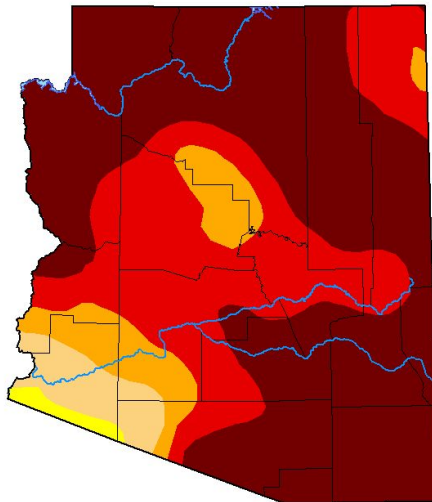
***Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook:*** Above normal significant wildland fire potential is forecast across all of Arizona in May and June. With wetter than average conditions favored by July, the significant wildland fire potential should become normal by then.

# Drought Monitor Comparison

## 2021 (Current)

## 2020

### U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



**May 4, 2021**

(Released Thursday, May 6, 2021)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.02	94.62	86.56	57.79
Last Week 04-27-2021	0.00	100.00	99.02	94.62	86.56	57.79
3 Months Ago 02-02-2021	0.00	100.00	98.92	94.60	84.77	53.66
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.34	93.86	72.69
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.97	69.95	3.37
One Year Ago 05-05-2020	80.60	19.40	13.45	6.77	0.00	0.00

#### Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

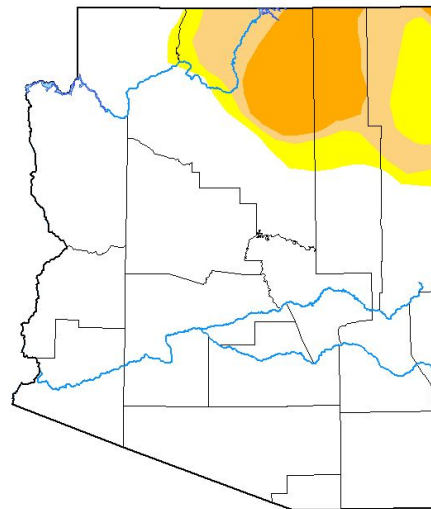
#### Author:

David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

### U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



**May 5, 2020**

(Released Thursday, May 7, 2020)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	80.60	19.40	13.45	6.77	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-29-2020	80.60	19.40	13.45	6.77	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-04-2020	70.37	29.63	23.00	14.65	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-27-2019	70.37	29.63	23.00	16.73	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	5.00	95.00	80.99	25.66	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 05-07-2019	83.31	16.69	4.59	0.00	0.00	0.00

#### Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

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#### Author:

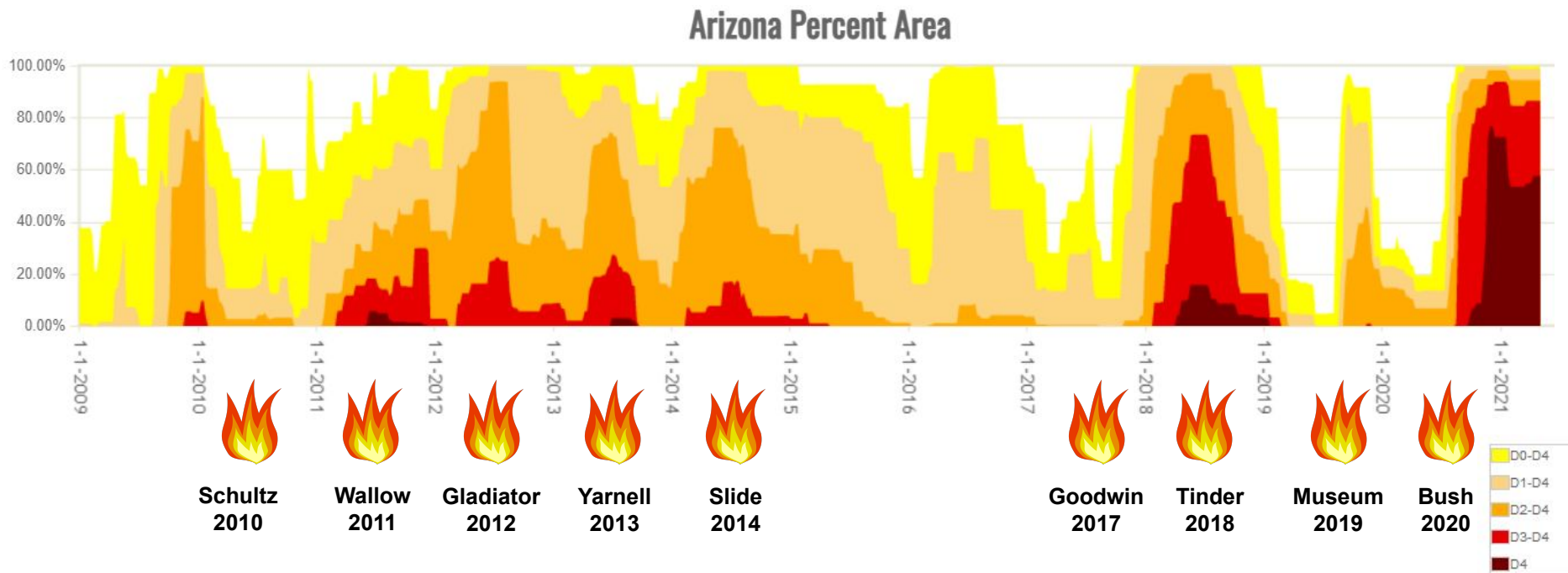
Brad Pugh  
CPC/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Comparing the latest drought monitor to the one from this time last year shows how drought conditions worsened across Arizona. Currently 100% of the entire state is in a drought, as opposed to 20% of the state this time last year.

# Arizona Drought Monitor Timeline and Fires

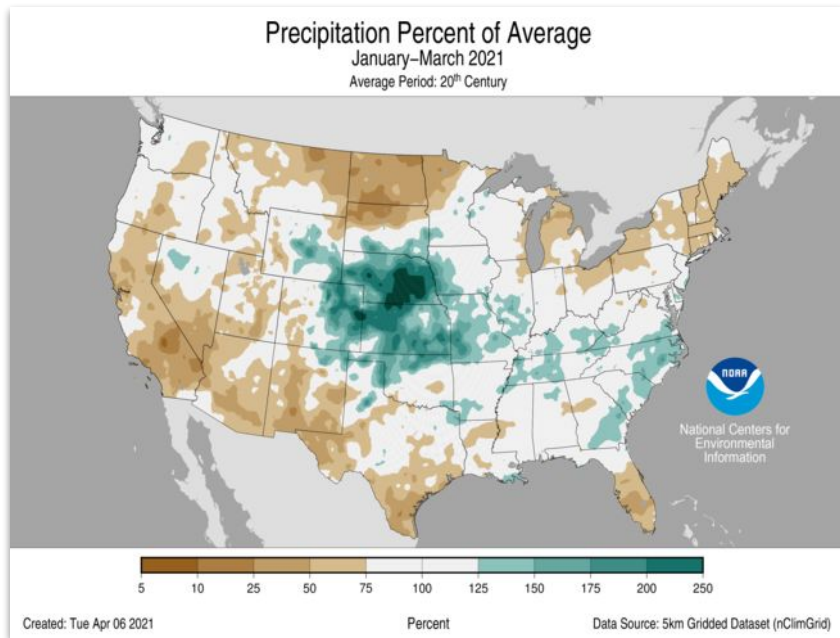


The image above is a timeline of the percent area of drought across the entire state of Arizona and fires that occurred during specified years.

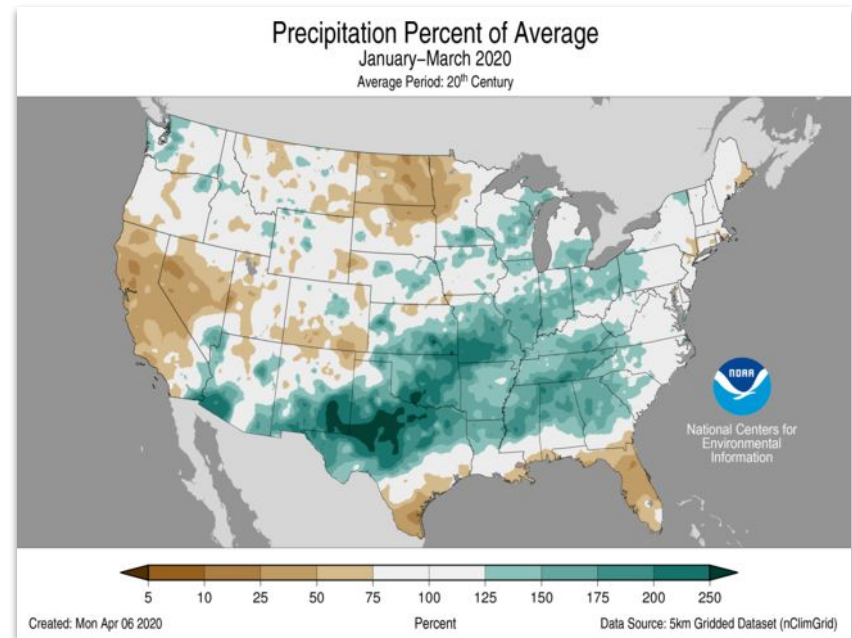


# Winter Precipitation % of Normal Comparison

## 2021 (Current)



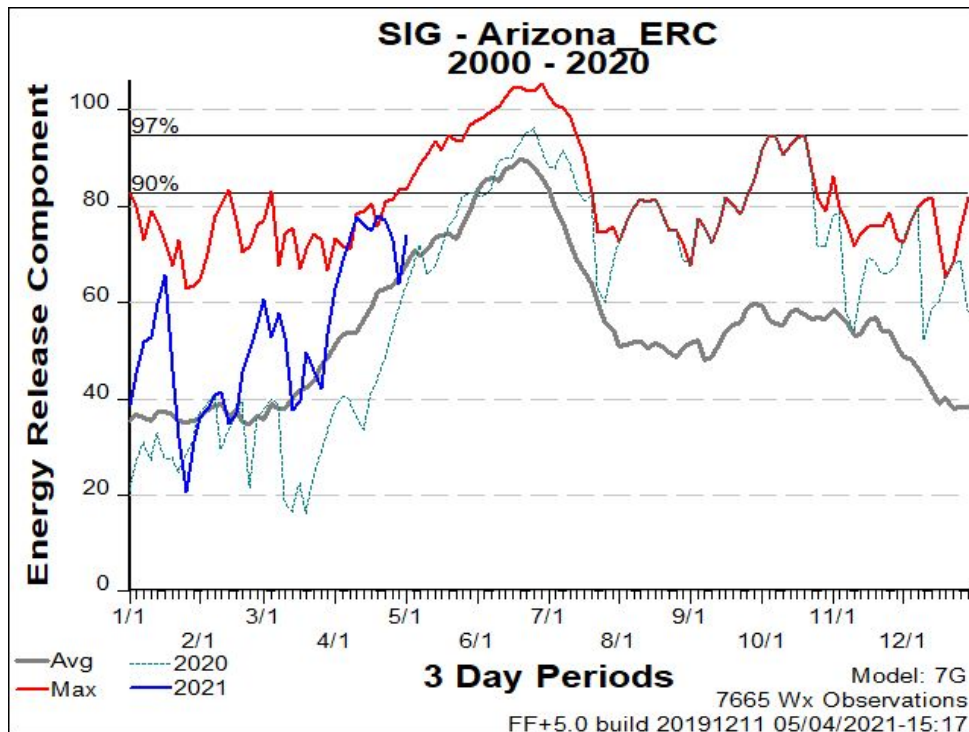
## 2020



At or below normal precipitation kept drought conditions about the same across the state. Note that generally near to above normal precipitation was observed this time last year.

# Energy Release Component (ERC) Graphs

## Arizona

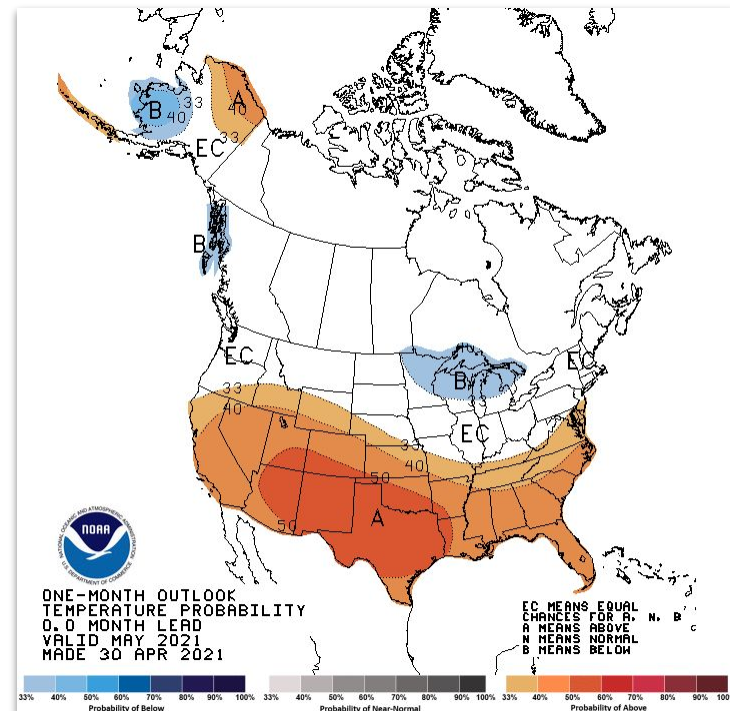
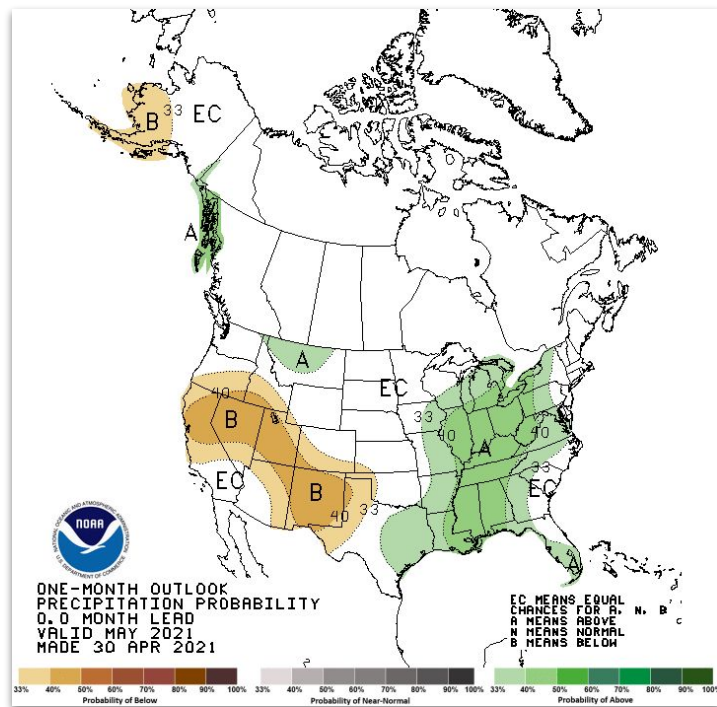


ERCs are generally near average across all of Arizona.

# May CPC Outlook

## Precipitation Outlook

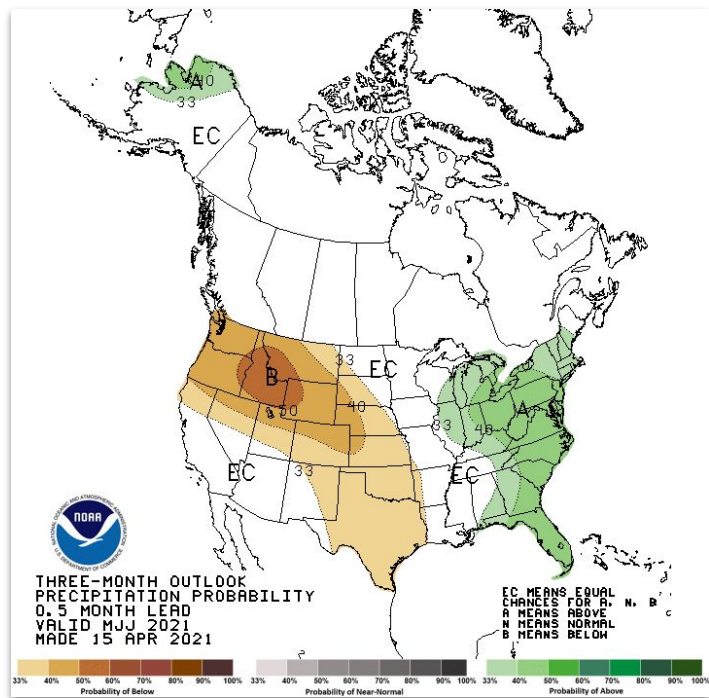
## Temperature Outlook



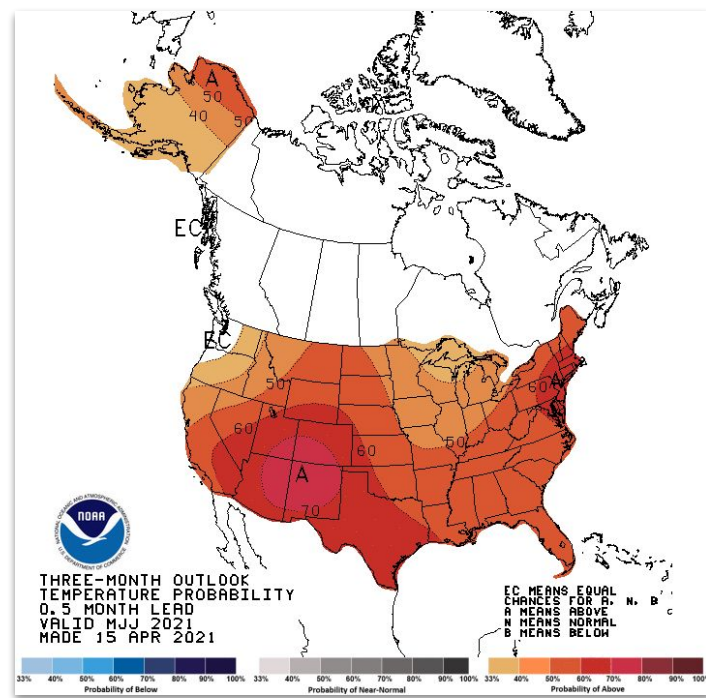
May will have odds favoring drier than average conditions across eastern Arizona and near the Arizona/Utah border. Otherwise, equal chances exist for above, near, or below normal precipitation across the rest of Arizona. Odds favor warmer than average conditions.

# 90-day (May-June-July) CPC Outlook

## Precipitation Outlook



## Temperature Outlook

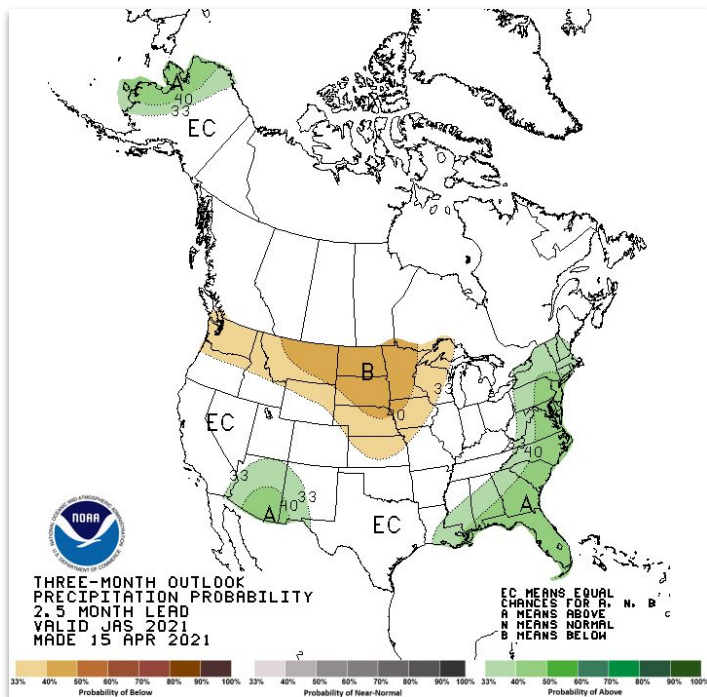


The 90-day (May, June, July combined average) outlook indicates equal chances for above, near, or below normal precipitation across Arizona. Odds favor warmer than average conditions across the state.

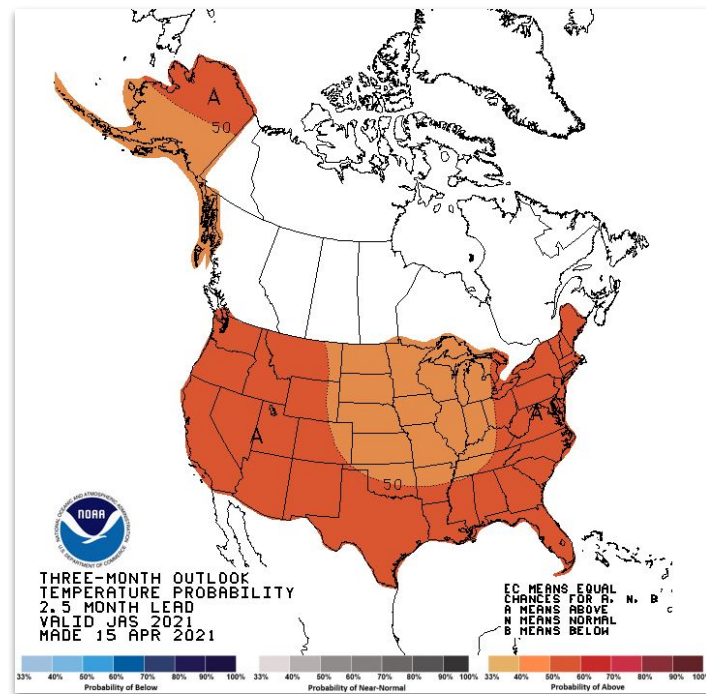


# 90-day (July-Aug-Sept) CPC Outlook

## Precipitation Outlook



## Temperature Outlook

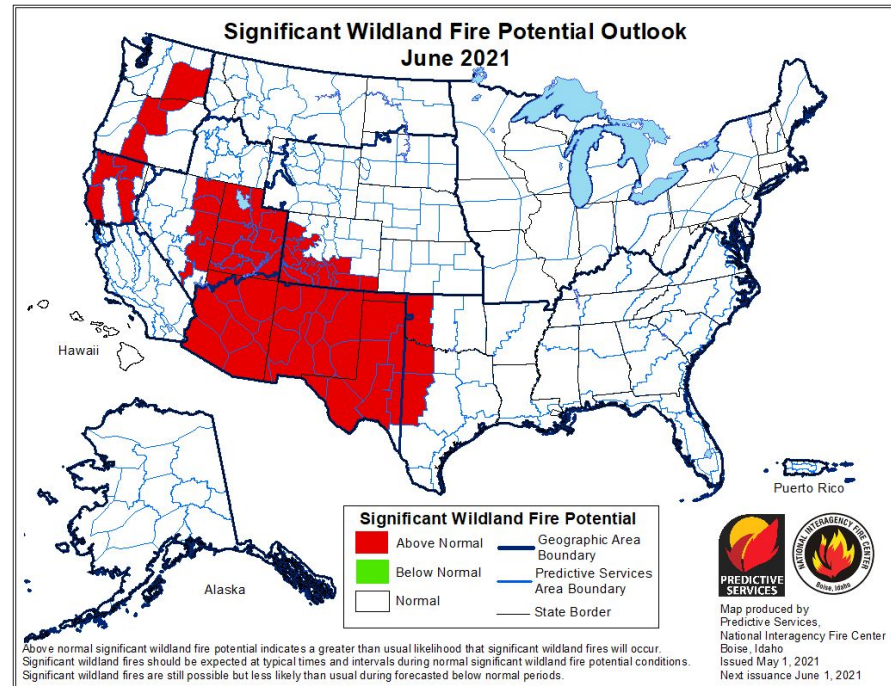
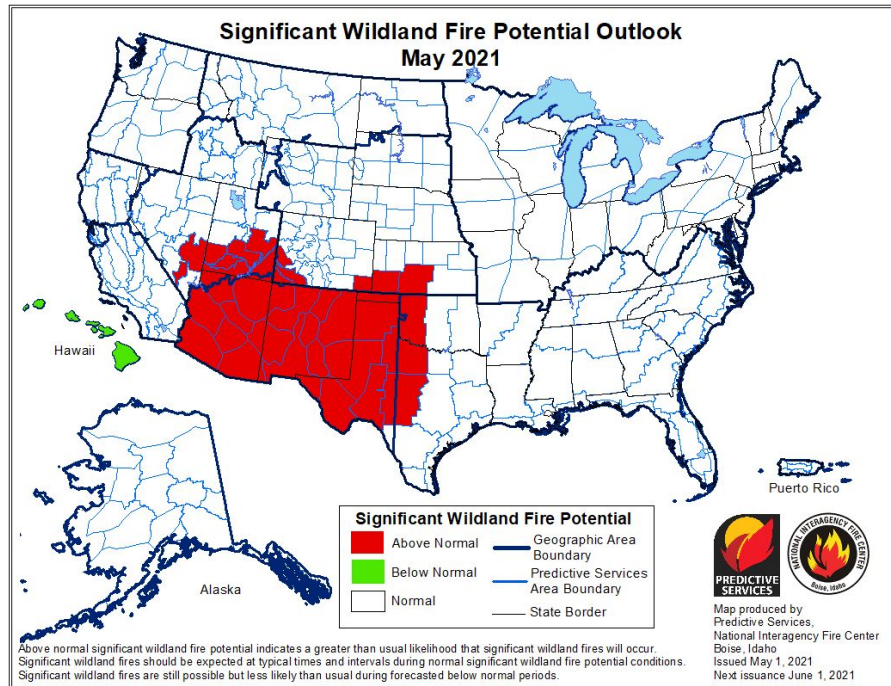


The 90-day (July, August, September monsoon season combined average) outlook indicates odds tilted in favor for above normal precipitation across Arizona. Odds favor warmer than average conditions across the state.

# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook

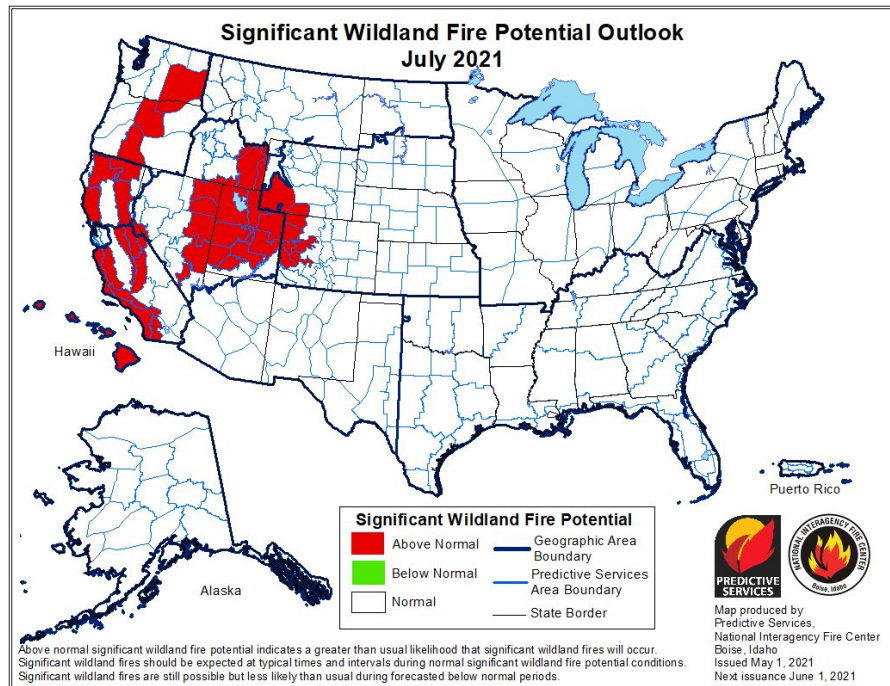


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In May and June, all of Arizona is expected to have above normal significant wildland fire potential.

# Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook



With odds tilted in favor of a wetter than average July, near normal significant wildland fire potential is forecast by then.

# Summary



***Current drought status:*** Near to below average precipitation in April has allowed severe to exceptional drought conditions to continue across northern Arizona.

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